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COR-0487

10 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Attendance of ARPA Representative at CORONA Progress Meetings

1. During the 28 May CORONA meeting, [redacted] and I discussed the advisability of inviting Dr. Golovin of ARPA to attend the monthly progress meetings. Specifically, the panic created by the latest ARPA visit to BMD with the resultant directive to get moving on a destructor mechanism, as well as other reviews and previous indirect actions taken by ARPA representatives, have generally created in each case difficult problems for both BMD and the CORONA staff. George and I felt that a system had to be devised which would prevent individual ARPA review teams and representatives from initiating unilateral action on their return to Washington from the West Coast.
2. A solution to this problem appeared to be either having a member of the DPD staff in ARPA as a focal point for following actions contemplated, or an ARPA individual to be kept fully abreast of CORONA activities. ARPA has a monetary stake as well as a technical monitoring responsibility in the over-all program. Therefore until the program is completed, they can be expected to keep their hand in.
3. We discussed with Col. Sheppard and later with you the wisdom of inviting a reasonable and objective ARPA representative to the monthly meetings. The experience George and I have had to date in meetings with Dr. Golovin indicates an apparent sincere and honest concern for the security aspects of the program and his method of getting things done appears to be systematic and logical. We therefore have concluded that if a responsible ARPA representative were to hear discussions concerning payloads, day-to-day liaison relationships between this Agency ARPA and BMD might be improved.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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4. Col. Sheppard agreed on 28 May, and on 9 June again, that this is desirable from a payload point of view but not from a vehicle or ground environment aspect. Since the vehicle and ground environment aspect is at present a set piece, George states that these problems have not been usually discussed. Therefore I recommend that we not retract our invitation and that Dr. Golovin be used as the single point of contact in ARPA by DPD. Should the meetings be less productive and useful because of his presence, steps can be taken to ensure that anything lost can be regained by personal contacts or in smaller groups. However, I feel the project stands to gain by his participation and feel the various proposals must be able to stand on their own merit. Also, hopefully, our over-all relationship with ARPA would improve.

SIGNED

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

APPROVAL: Recommendation in
para. 4 re use of
Dr. Golovin approved.

(sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr. 11 JUN 1959

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(Plans)

DPD-DD/P:WB/hh

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